



Montana

Department of Labor and Industry

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GOVERNOR'S SAFETY AND HEALTH AWARDS

(Helena) --- Governor Brian Schweitzer and Labor and Industry Commissioner Keith Kelly today announced the Governor's Awards for Safety and Health 2006 at the Annual Governor's Conference on Workers' Compensation and Occupational Safety at the Holiday Inn Sunspree Resort in West Yellowstone. The award recognizes employers who have made outstanding achievements in improving safety and health in the workplace by initiating and updating programs in their individual companies.

The 2006 recipients were: NewMech Companies, Inc. of Helena; Blackfoot Telecommunications Group of Missoula; Simms Fishing Products of Bozeman; Ironwood Manufacturing of Missoula; City of Helena of Helena and Spring Creek Coal Mine of Decker.

"The Governor's Awards are Montana's highest honors given to employers for excellence in improving safety and health in the workplace," said Kelly. "Those receiving the award are recognized for their commitment to ongoing safety programs, involving their own employees in the development of the in-house safety plan and their efforts to enhance programs by seeking advice and assistance of qualified professionals at the state and federal level."

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Award winners are annually nominated by labor unions, trade associations, insurance companies and other entities. Many employers nominate themselves for the awards. The nominees are independently evaluated and rated by a panel of safety professionals who follow an objective method of evaluating safety programs and records.

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